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Message Text

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41
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 OMB-01 COME-00 MC-02 IO-11 ACDA-05 /085 W
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P R 101606Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7550
INFO AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, BBAK, EINV, NL
SUBJECT: LOCKHEED AND THE PRINCE

REF: THE HAGUE 670

1. SUMMARY: LOCKHEED/PRINCE BERNHARD AFFAIR CONTINUES DOMINATE NEWS, THOUGH EDITORIAL COMMENT IS RESTRAINED. GON NAMES SPECIAL COMMISSION MEMBERS WHO ARE CHARGED WITH INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED PAYOFF. END SUMMARY.

2. IN LETTER TO STATES GENERAL FEB 10, WHICH REPEATED EARLIER OFFICIAL STATEMENTS, PRIMIN DEN UYL ANNOUNCED COMPOSITION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR COMMISSION WHICH WILL INVESTIGATE ALLEGATIONS THAT PRINCE BERNHARD RECEIVED $1.1-MILLION FROM LOCKHEED FOR USE
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OF HIS INFLUENCE IN PERSUADING GON TAKE DECISIONS FAVORABLE TO

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COMPANY. THREE-MAN COMMISSION SELECTED YESTERDAY BY CABINET IS MADE UP OF 55-YEAR OLD DR. H. PEACHAR, CHAIRMAN OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTING OFFICE; A.M. DONNER, 58-YEAR OLD JUDGE ON THE COURT OF JUSTICE OF EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES; AND DR. M. W. HOLTROP, 71-YEAR OLD FORMER PRESIDENT OF CENTRAL BANK. COMMISSION IS CHARGED WITH MAKING AN INVESTIGATION INTO ACCURACY OF STATEMENTS MADE BEFORE CHURCH COMMITTEE RELATING TO PRINCE BERNHARD, LOOKING INTO POSSIBLE "BLAMEABLE" ACTIVITIES TO INFLUENCE GOVERNMENT PURCHASE OF AIRCRAFT, AND REPORTING TO GOVERNMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ON RESULT OF ITS INVESTIGATION AS WELL AS COMMISSION'S CONCLUSIONS. EMBASSY'S FIRST IMPRESSION IS THAT THIS GIVES

COMMISSION CONSIDERABLE LATITUDE.

3. NOT SURPRISINGLY, COMMISSION MEMBERS SELECTED BY CABINET ARE BALANCED AS TO AGE, EXPERIENCE AND POLITICAL PERSUASION. PECHER, AN ECONOMIST, IS A FORMER MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR THE LABOR PARTY. DONNER IS THE SON OF A FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE DUTCH SUPREME COURT AND HAS BEEN AN ADVISOR TO THE PROTESTANT ANTI-REVOLUTIONARY PARTY. THE ELDEST OF THE THREE, HOLTROP, HAS WORKED FOR TWO DUTCH MULTINATIONALS AND HAS SERVED AS PRESIDENT OF THE BANK FOR INTERNATIONAL SETTLEMENTS.

4. LOCKHEED AFFAIR CONTINUES AS PRIMARY NEWS EVENT OF THE DAY. DUTCH PRESS AND PUBLIC SHOW GREAT INTEREST IN CHARGES THAT LOCK-HEED PAID THE PRINCE, ALTHOUGH THERE SEEMS TO BE WIDESPREAD FEELING THAT FULL TRUTH MAY NEVER BE KNOWN, GIVEN FACT THAT SWISS INTERMEDIARIES AND BANKS MAY BE INVOLVED. OFFICIAL "ANP" BULLETIN TODAY REPORTS DUTCH EMBASSY CONTACTS WITH CHURCH SUBCOMMITTEE AND STATES LATTER PLANS TO COOPERATE WITH ALL INQUIRIES. EDITORIAL COMMENT HAS BEEN RESTRAINED, MOST PAPERS TAKING CAUTIOUS ATTITUDE.

5. APART FROM COMMENT OF CHU LEADER (REPORTED REFTEL) THAT DUTCH SHOULD NOT BUY LOCKHEED PRODUCTS IN FUTURE, OTHER DUTCH POLITICIANS HAVE AVOIDED THIS TOPIC. DUTCH PRESS, HOWEVER, REPORTS DUTCH NAVY IS CONCERNED THAT ITS HOPES FOR REPLACEMENT OF NEPTUNES BY LOCKHEED ORIONS HAVE BEEN DEALT SEVERE BLOW. AS YET, THERE HAS BEEN NO ATTEMPT TO PUT F-16 PURCHASE INTO QUESTION. GENERAL DYNAMICS REPRESENTATIVE HAS TOLD PRESS THAT, IF QUESTION SHOULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ARISE ABOUT F-16 SALES EFFORT, HIS COMPANY WOULD BE GLAD TO COOPERATE AS IT HAS NOTHING TO HIDE.

6. FRENCH MAY HAVE DISCOVERED ONLY SILVER LINING IN LOCKHEED CLOUD, AS DOMINATION OF NEWS OF PRINCE'S INVOLVEMENT WITH US COMPANY HAS PUSHED EARLIER MIRAGE BRIBERY CASE INTO BACKGROUND. NEWSPAPERS CARRY ONLY SCANTY INSIDE-PAGE COVERAGE OF STORY THAT MIRAGE AMSTERDAM REPRESENTATIVE IS TO GO ON TRIAL THIS WEEK FOR

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ATTEMPTING TO BRIBE TWO DUTCH PARLIAMENTARIANS DURING LIGHT-
WEIGHT FIGHTER COMPETITION.
GOULD

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